

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7320
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK 3807

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10499

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG IS UN
SUBJECT: FAHMY'S COMMENTS ON SOVIETS AND
UNEF EXTENSION

1. ALTHOUGH I HAD TALKED WITH HIM ON THE PHONE
SEVERAL TIMES, I HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE FAHMY
FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE MY MEETING OF LAST
NIGHT. I HAD TO WAIT IN HIS ANTEROOM
ABOUT AN HOUR BEYOND THE APPOINTED TIME BEFORE
HE COULD SEE ME. REASON, IT TURNED OUT, WAS
THAT HIS PRIOR MEETING WITH JUST RETURNED
SOVIET AMBASSADOR POLYAKOV WAS MORE PROTRACTED
THAN EXPECTED. IN ACT, IT LASTED ALMOST TWO
HOURS.

2. AS A RESULT, FAHMY WAS IN A COMBATIVE MOOD.
POLYAKOV, HE SAID, HAD AMONG OTHER THINGS GIVEN
HIM A "MEMORANDUM" OBJECTING TO THE PRESENCE
OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN SINAI. HE HAD TOLD
THE SOVIETS TO "GO TO HELL." SOVIETS, ACCORDING
TO FAHMY, CONTINUE TO TRY TO SQUEEZE EGYPT, BUT
GOE IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS. I HAD NOTED THE
LENGTHY APPLAUSE WHICH THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY
HAD GIVEN TO SADAT'S COMMENTS ABOUT EXPELLING
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THE SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS. THIS

REFLECTED EGYPTIAN GRASS ROOT ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH I GAVE HIM SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES, FAHMY EVADED PROVIDING ANY FURTHER DETAILS AS TO WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE TWO HOUR MEETING.

3. I ASKED FAHMY IF HE HAD ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS RE UNEF. HE CLAIMED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD SAID NOTHING ON THE SUBJECT. ON HIS PART, FAHMY HAD NOT WANTED TO GIVE POLYAKOV THE SATISFACTION OF ASKING ABOUT IT. LATEST INFORMATION GOE HAS ARE THE CONFLICTING REPORTS HE HAD EARLIER MENTIONED TO ME (CAIRO 10402). IF WE HAVE ANYTHING MORE, HE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING IT.

4. FAHMY NOTED GOE HAS RECEIVED SYG'S REPORT ON UNEF SIMPLY ASKING THAT UNEF BE EXTENDED. IN RESPONSE TO REPORT, FAHMY NOW PLANS TO SEND HIS LETTER TO WALDHEIM REQUESTING A ONE YEAR RENEWAL. HE AGAIN INSISTED WE SHOULD STOP THE ISRAELIS FROM SENDING A SIMILAR LETTER. IF THEY SEND ONE, HE WILL WITHDRAW HIS LETTER. I TOLD HIM TO THINK THIS ONE OVER CAREFULLY. NO ONE COULD STOP THE ISRAELIS FROM SENDING SUCH A LETTER AND GOE WOULD BE DOING A DISSERVICE TO ITSELF BY SUCH SHORTSIGHTED ACTION. THIS LED FAHMY TO RECITE HIS CUSTOMARY LITANY ABOUT HOW ONLY EGYPT, AS HOST COUNTRY, HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST AN EXTENSION. I DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT, BUT FAHMY IS AWARE OF OUR VIEWS.

5. PRIOR TO MY MEETING FAHMY LAST NIGHT, ONE OF HIS AIDES TOLD ME THAT AMR MUSA, OF THE MINISTER'S STAFF WOULD LEAVE FOR NEW YORK THIS MORNING TO HANDCARRY THE LETTER TO UNSYG REQUESTING A ONE YEAR EXTENSION.
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